

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, enclosed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement that lists references of record in Serial No. 10/532,069, which relates to subject matter similar to that of the instant application.

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-59711 (hereinafter JP '711). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, JP '711 fails to disclose a pneumatic tire including, *inter alia*, an arcuate curved main groove provided on each side of a straight main groove, wherein each arcuate curved main groove is composed "of a plurality of arcuate grooves that are circumferentially formed, with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

One example of an embodiment of the tire recited in Claim 1 is shown in Applicant's Figure 1, which includes straight main groove 1 and an arcuate curved main groove 3 on each side of the straight main groove 1. Figure 1 also shows one example of how the arcuate curved main groove 3 can be formed of a plurality of arcuate grooves 3a that are circumferentially formed, with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves 3a connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner.

In contrast, the tire of JP '711 lacks, *inter alia*, the claimed arcuate curved main grooves composed of a plurality of arcuate grooves, "with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves connected to each other," as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Referring to Figures 1-3 of JP '711, the Examiner equated grooves 10A and 10B with the claimed arcuate curved main groove. However, as can be seen in Figure 3 of JP '711, which shows an enlarged portion of groove 10B, this groove does not include the claimed plurality of arcuate grooves in which ends of adjacent grooves are connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, as can be seen in Figure 3 of JP '711, the upper end of chamfer 17 is not connected to the end of the next adjacent groove. Accordingly, groove 10B cannot be considered as being made up of a plurality of arcuate grooves with ends connected to each other so as to be continuous in a repeated manner.

Similarly, with regard to groove 10A of Figure 2, the ends of the inner side chamfers are not connected to the ends of the next adjacent inner side chamfer. Accordingly, groove 10A cannot be considered as being made up of a plurality of arcuate grooves with ends connected to each other so as to be continuous in a repeated manner.

Thus, since all of the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed in JP '711, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §102 rejection of independent Claims 1 and associated dependent Claims 2-4 and 6 under JP '711.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP '711 in view of JP 6-270609 (hereinafter JP '609). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For the reasons discussed above in response to the §102 rejection under JP '711, Applicant respectfully submits that JP '711 does not disclose or suggest the tire of Claim 1 that includes, *inter alia*, arcuate curved main grooves that are composed "of a plurality of arcuate grooves that are circumferentially formed, with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner," as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Further, Applicant also submits that the JP '609 does not remedy this deficiency, nor was it relied upon as such by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2-7.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,340,040 to Ikeda. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Ikeda reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, the Ikeda reference fails to disclose or suggest a pneumatic tire including, *inter alia*, an arcuate curved main groove provided on each side of a straight main groove, wherein each arcuate curved main groove is composed "of a plurality of arcuate grooves that are circumferentially formed, with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In contrast to the claimed arcuate curved main grooves of Claim 1 (such as shown in Applicant's Figure 1, which, in this embodiment, are each formed of a plurality of arcuate grooves 3a that are circumferentially formed, with ends of adjacent arcuate grooves 3a connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner), the curved portions 7a of Figure 1 of the Ikeda reference can not be considered as the claimed arcuate grooves because they are not configured such that "ends of adjacent arcuate grooves are connected to each other," as defined in Claim 1. Instead, as can be seen in Figure 1 of Ikeda, the upper ends of curved portions 7a are connected to another groove (groove 4), instead of being connected to an end of an adjacent curved portion 7a. Accordingly, as all of the features of Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the Ikeda reference, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2-7.

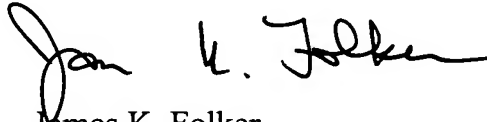
Finally, Applicant has also added new dependent Claims 8-10. Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 8-10 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to independent Claim 1.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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